

it. Man is so constituted by his Maker, as to be able and disposed to love objects that are distant and unseen.

We go farther, and maintain that it is not sense which kindles the mental affection of love. It is conception, the conception of a lovely object, which calls forth love towards that object; and sense aids affection only so far as it aids our conceptions, and in making them more vivid, makes them more fitted to awaken the emotion. Let us inquire whether we have not in the Scripture representation of Jesus everything needful to call forth emotion. Let us inquire, in particular, whether we have not much that makes up for the want of sensible manifestation.

First, we have in the Word a very clear and lively picture of the character of the Redeemer. When the information communicated to us, in regard to any given individual, is very vague and imperfect, it is difficult, however worthy he may be, to fix our affections upon him. Had we been commanded to love Jesus, without any particular account being given of his life or his love, and without the lovely features of his character being delineated, it must have been very difficult to obey. But in Jesus, as presented to us in the Gospels, we have everything to attract and retain the affections. O that we had but lived in the days when Jesus tabernacled on the earth! is the wish which will at times rise up in our breasts. So situated, we think that it might have been easier for us to love him. In opposition to such vain wishes, and the gross ideas on which they are founded, we maintain that we have a view of the character of Jesus as much fitted to engage the affections as even those who are supposed to have been so much more highly favoured. Let us suppose that we had been living in the land of Judea, at the time when Jesus was working his miracles and publishing his sublime doctrine. On hearing a report of the new Teacher, we hasten with the crowding

thousands to listen
to his discourse; we hear one, it may be, of the
most beautiful
of his parables, or see him perform one of the most
signal of his
miracles. The whole transaction leaves a deep
impression on
our minds ; and because we have seen, we believe.
But in the
meantime Jesus and the crowd sweep by, or he
retires to the
mountains to pray, or he visits some other part
of the land;
and we are constrained to return to the cares
and business of
life, and have few other opportunities of
meeting with him.